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Hybrid Cactus Dahlias

CATALOGUE of DAHLIAS

The Best from the World's Collection Grown at

The Somerhousen Dahlia Gardens
Chestnut Hill
PHILADELPHIA, PENN'A

Join the American Dahlia Society



The American Dahlia Society was organized in 1915 and has been one of the greatest factors in the development of the widespread interest in the growing of fine dahlias. Each year it holds a show in New York City to which thousands are attracted from all parts of the country. It maintains a Trial Garden at Storrs, Conn. where promising seedlings are tried out and such as

pass the high requirements of the standards set by the Society are certificated and given the stamp of approval. The official organ of the Society is the "Bulletin of the American Dahlia Society," the most important medium of exchange for dahlia information generally, a copy of which is sent to every member.

The annual dues for membership are \$2.00, and all persons interested in dahlias are invited to join the Society. This may be done by sending the amount for the first year's dues with a letter of application to Wm. J. Rathgeber, Secretary, 98 Norton Street, New Haven, Conn.

During the last decade the evolution of the dahlia has made greater strides than those of any other plant during a like period. Many new varieties have come to the front and a great number have been relegated to the domain of oblivion. Only those which have possessed the most desirable characteristics have been able to persist, and they have been of great value in the hands of the hybridizers in the production of still better varieties. Thus the process keeps on and it would be interesting if we could at this time see what the next decade will bring forth in this flower which at present holds the great interest and esteem of Americans.

With this rapid increase in the number of fine new varieties which make their appearance each year, it has been found necessary to discontinue many of the older varieties, but we have retained such as have merit and beauty that are well recognized. The varieties offered in this catalogue have been well tried and we have no hesitation in recommending them.

They are listed alphabetically under the heading of the type to which they belong, with the name of the raiser or introducer following in parenthesis.

Our stock is grown on a natural potash soil, formed by the disintegration of orthoclase feldspar rocks, which with the addition of good barnyard manure produces the high quality of tubers which give so uniformly satisfactory results. This insures all the potash that is necessary to supply the normal proportions necessary for vigorous plant growth. Any amount of potash beyond this is of no value whatever. Since we called attention to the potash character of our soil in one of our catalogues some years ago, others have taken hold of the idea, and now "potash-fed" dahlias are

becoming extensively advertised.

We guarantee all of our stock to be healthy and true to name and will replace cheerfully anything that should prove otherwise. We do not substitute unless requested, as we like to receive what we order, and we believe that our customers do the same. A list of second choice, however, often saves time and secures certain varieties when stock is rapidly running low. The stock offered consists of strong, dormant, dry tubers. The new variety, Thomas A. Edison, which is being disseminated in plants only, is our only offering in green plants.

Early orders facilitate shipping and will be appreciated. Orders are filled in rotation, and to secure some varieties—the stock of

which is limited—it will be necessary to order early.

The prices are net, and orders should be accompanied by check or postal money order. Money sent loose in letters will be at the risk of the sender, unless the letter is registered.

The price quoted is for a single tuber. The price per dozen will be ten times that of the single rate. Not less than six of any one

variety sold at the dozen rate.

Orders amounting to one dollar or over will be sent prepaid by parcel post. For a less amount postage should be included extra at the rate of five cents per tuber.

If you desire your dahlias by express, charges collect, we will send larger roots, and extra ones gratis will be added to partly

defray charges.

For those who are not familiar with the names of varieties, we will make a selection, giving good value if the amount to be invested and the types desired are mentioned.

Whenever you write always give full name with street number, city or town, county and state. This often saves much incon-

venience to all concerned.

All correspondence should be addressed just as we give it below, and checks and money orders drawn to the order of Somerhousen Dahlia Gardens. We accept fresh, clean two cent stamps for amounts up to one dollar. Larger denominations are not acceptable.

Visitors are always welcome to our trial gardens and farm, during week-days. We usually have plants in flower after September 15th, rarely before it, but from that time until frost the

display of color is wonderful.

In conclusion we express our thanks to the many customers who have favored us with their patronage each year for so many years, and assure them and all others of our best efforts to merit a continuance of their valued orders in the future.

Very truly yours,

SOMERHOUSEN DAHLIA GARDENS. 8601 Germantown Avenue,

A. M. Buckenham, Proprietor. Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa.

New Exhibition Decorative Dahlia

Thomas A. Edison

One of the Finest Introductions for 1930

This gorgeous new royal purple exhibition decorative, selected and named by permission of the famous electrical wizard, met with his complete approval when viewed at his West Orange estate. It also met with universal approval in the dahlia shows of 1929. The staghorn petal formation, the dark green insect-resistant foliage, the cane stiff stems, and its thrifty growing habits make it one of the most desirable of recent introductions. It stands without a rival.

We offer this in strong, well rooted plants which is the only way it is being diseminated this season, at \$10.00 net, delivered in first class growing

condition, by parcel post prepaid.

Choice Cactus Dahlias

THIS class is characterized by full, double flowers having long, narrow incurved or twisted petals, with sharp divided or fluted points and with revolute margins, forming a more or less perfect tube. Their effect is devoid of stiffness or formality, and they constitute one of the most fascinating and popular types of the dahlia.

- Aquitania (Stillman). The color of this gorgeous cactus dahlia is a beautiful salmon pink. The flowers are very large and are borne on long stems with scant foliage, making it most desirable for cutting 50
- Bearclaws (Staats). An American incurved cactus of enormous size, with a stiff stem. Color a clear Burgundy, profuse bloomer and one of the largest it has been our pleasure to grow. Highly recommended.... 1.00

- Chemar's Masterpiece (Chemar). This cactus, or hybrid cactus as some call it, has received a certificate of merit in the New Jersey trials. Color is a very attractive orchid pink, blooms are large and of good form. 1.50

- Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh (Fisher & Masson). An exhibition hybrid cactus of a beautiful rose "du Barry" shade, overlaid and suffused with old ivory, shading off to pale gold at the center. Reverse of petals light carmine pink. An extremely free bloomer for a flower of its size. Stems rigid and straight, dark green foliage and good habit of growth. Blooming period from early in the season till late and holding the centre full. A superb flower ranking high amongst prize winning dahlias 5.00

- Farncot (Fraser). One of the best keeping and most satisfactory cactus dahlias it has been our pleasure to grow. Color is aster purple, tipped white. The flowers have perfect form and are carried on top of good stiff stems. Profuse bloomer, this variety is distinct and should be included in every collection 1.50
- Fay Lanphier (Edymel). A very beautiful creamy yellow, the color we all like. The handsome, large blooms are held on good stems 2.00
- Fort Monmouth (Kemp). This giant hybrid cactus created much interest at the Eastern Shows last year. The predominating color being a rich claret with brightness unusual in darker tones. Flowers are full centered and well formed, borne on long stiff stems high above the foliage. A very prolific grower and bloomer, bush 7 to 8 feet high with flowers 13 inches in diameter. One of the outstanding novelties of the year. Winning in the largest bloom class at the Trenton Show 7.50

- Jersey's Mammoth (Waite). Truly a monster. The color is a rich golden mahogany. This variety was introduced in a limited way last year and won first prize at many of the shows for the largest bloom. Many blooms of this variety will reach fourteen inches; stems fair 1.50

- Kalif (Englehardt). The mammoth flowers are of perfect hybrid cactus type, held erect on strong, wiry stems, which makes them valuable for cutting as well as for garden decoration. The color is a beautiful, pure glowing scarlet. A garden or exhibition dahlia of rare merit 50

- Mrs. John L. Gardner (Fisher & Masson). A large bi-color exhibition hybrid cactus of dazzling brilliancy. Blood red petals, tipped pure white, full to the center and borne on long stiff stems well above the foliage 1.50
- Mrs. Warnaar (Hornsveld). A colossal cactus of finest form and great substance. Color, creamy white suffused apple-blossom pink. a wonderful variety for garden or exhibition. Should be in every collection. . .50
- Nagel's Roem (Nagel). The large flowers are borne on rigid stems. Color, chamois overlaid with salmon; petals curl and twist, making a flower of great beauty. Should make a good cut flower 1.00
- Nibelungenhort (Goos & Koenemann). Another magnificent cactus dahlia. Petals are broad, more or less irregular curled and twisted, forming rather flat, massive flowers, often measuring from 7 to 8 inches in diameter. The color is a beautiful shade of old rose with a golden apricot suffusion. The plant is a free bloomer with long stems supporting the flowers well above the foliage. Fine for garden or exhibition 50
- Nichu (Bessie Boston). A hybrid cactus dahlia of real merit, described by the originator as a new Yellow King. A mass of clear yellow blooms with good stems. A strong grower and a good root maker 1.00
- Pierrot (Stredwick). An imported novelty of great merit. Flowers gigantic, freely produced. Color deep amber tinted brown and boldly tipped white. Plants of good sturdy form. Should be in every collection. .50
- Pop Stewart (Fisher & Masson). This is a remarkable hybrid cactus flower of great size. It is one of the finest dahlias of its shade in existence. Color, purest lilac pink; long stiff stems 1.50

- William G. (Emmett). This is a very fine type of dahlia that will grow very large on good long strong stems. Color being henna and bronze with long wavy petals deepening in color towards the centre of the flowers, a profuse bloomer and will grow 9 to 10 inch flowers all season.... 1.50

Select Decorative Dahlias

- THIS class is intermediate between the cactus and the show dahlia. Flowers are large, full to the centre, with broad, flat, incurved or reflexed petals, giving an irregular formation devoid of stiffness and formality. They are all strong, vigorous growers, early and free bloomers.



A Typical Decorative

Amun Ra (Seal). One of the sensational dahlias and a most satisfactory one. The plants are very vigorous, clean and healthy in their growth, finest decorative type, immense in size, full to the centre, and the petals are broad and massive. The color is a glorious golden copper deepening to a rich red bronze. It is our preference in the entire list

Actec Glory (Broomall-Success). Bright primrose yellow. One of the very largest dahlias both as to diameter and depth. In spite of its size the flower is decidedly artistic being oval rather than flat and loosely formed rather than solid. The plant is of medium height and the stems are good 5.00

Big Chief (Success). This is the largest dahlia that we have introduced, having exhibited only once. We won the first prize in a strong seed-ling class and the largest dahlia in the show, defeating such dahlias as Jane Cowl, Alice Whittier Siskiyou and other good ones. Color, rich autumn shades general effect is salmon-buff. Immense flowers are carried erect on long, stiff stems. Very free bloomers, four feet 7.50

- Bcb Newcomb (Superior). Extra large flower, full to the centre, and of great depth. The color is plum and burgundy tones. Flowers eight to ten inches without fertilizer. It has an unusually long, stiff stem, attaining a height of six feet. This is a profuse bloomer with dark green foliage, making it a desirable cut flower which remains double to the end of the season. While starting to bloom early in the season, it is also a late bloomer, which makes it very valuable for commercial purposes.... 1.00

- Champagne (Bessie Boston). Color delightful, warm autumn shades, varying from burnished copper to dull golden champagne and chamois. Stem is heavy and holds the massive flower absolutely upright, and the bushes are plentiful producers of blooms. Unusually fine for exhibition... 1.00
- Charm (Marean). The color is a very pleasing burnt orange shading to yellow. The flowers are large, on good stiff stems, full to the centre. A vigorous grower with dark stems and foliage. A fine garden dahlia .50

- Coquette (Fisher & Masson). In this most robust and beautiful Decorative dahlia we have the much desired combination of red and gold. Face of petals of velvety Musketeer red blending with gold and shading to a golden sunset color at points, back of petals gold. Thick, fluffy flower composed of many curled and twisted petals which give the impression of a glowing sunset. An exhibition flower of great beauty. Flower at least twelve inches above the first pair of leaves, stem rigid, foliage dark green and leathery therefore insect proof, free bloomer. In cutting flowers for exhibition it is well to have them fully matured when it will be found to be an excellent keeper 6.00

- Don Williams (Doolittle). A seedling of Earl Williams, of a beautiful new shade of lavender, each petal being tipped snow white. Fine stems, low-growing plant. Attracts a great deal of attention in exhibitions... 1.00

- Elite Glory (Kennedy). This giant red is still one of the most spectacular varieties we have. The flowers are immense in size and breadth of petal; in growth it is entirely distinct from any other variety, the whole plant being gigantic in size, yet only of moderate height. The foliage is leathery in texture and practically immune from the ravages of insects. 2.00
- Eliza Clarke Bull (Bessie Boston). This is one of the biggest and deepest flowers of its color. The form is perfect and the petals are just enough irregular to prevent it from being stiff. It has, however a heavy, firm stem, which carries the flower erect and out of the foliage. Blooms generously on bushes of medium height. Color pure white. 2.00
- Elkridge (Griffiths). This splendid new white dahlia has the distinction of winning the medal for the best new variety at the A. D. S. exhibition held at New York 1926. The flowers are of good size, borne on splendid stems, petals firm in texture and it is particularly fine for keeping when cut. Vigorous grower and flowers are produced in great profusion. 1.50
- Emma Groot (Holland Decorative). This grand dahlia is without doubt the most sensational dahlia originated in Holland since Insulinde and it will be fully as popular if not more so. In color it is a soft deep lilac with deeper reverse. As bloom develops color lightens and becomes more beautiful. Flowers are enormous, borne on top of long, rigid stems. Shape is similar to that of Insulinde, but petals are broader and more symmetrical. Habit of growth is identical to that of Jersey's Beauty 1.00
- Faith Garibaldi (Bessie Boston). This immense, deep rose decorative is a flower of great substance and of perfect formation. It does not require heavy disbudding for immense blooms. The stem is exceptionally strong and carries the flower high above the foliage. This dahlia has won many prizes in different parts of the country 1.00
- Fireburst. This dahlia is a seedling of the well-known Le Colosse, and one of the largest. The flower is more flatly built, has broader and longer petals, and color is a more intense scarlet, with a light shade of orange red. It produces flowers which frequently measure 8 to 9 inches in diameter, supported on long stems. It is fine for exhibition 50
- Fire Chief (Reed). This is unquestionably one of the finest (if not the finest) scarlet dahlias to date. The color is a brilliant scarlet with a dazzling lustre that is intensified in bright sunlight. Flowers are full 8 inches without disbudding, and are held upright on long stiff stems. Flowers are produced in great abundance. Certified by the A. D. S. and D. S. of N. J. 5.00
- Firelight (Marean). Beautiful large flower, yellow with points of petals tipped orange; splendid long stiff stems. A very fine variety 2.00

- Fordhook Gold Crest (Burpee). Considered an outstanding decorative for the year. A spectacular autumn tint combining shades of yellow, salmon pink, and rose. Perfect flowers are held erect above all the foliage. Fine for cutting, garden or exhibition. D. S. of N. J. Cert. of Merit, 1927. 3.00
- Fordhook Radiance (Burpee). The flowers are of immense size, refined form, and are carried on long, stiff stems. The color is bright peach-red, suffused with metallic bronze. There is just a suspicion of soft salmon on the outer petals and a touch of buff-orange on the inner petals 2.00

- Freckles (Maytrott). Buttercup yellow, streaked and penciled garnet, some flowers all garnet, on erect stems. A very early and profuse bloomer .50
- Glory of New Haven (Slocombe). A seedling of Mildred Slocombe, with fine, large massive flowers of clear lavender pink. Plant a thrifty grower with strong stems. One of the best varieties for exhibition 50

- Golden West (Burbank). Flowers average 4 inches in diameter, double and well formed, bright, clear canary-yellow, each petal firmbriated, resembling the finest chrysanthemums, borne in abundance upon long, stiff stems. Valuable cut flower. Blooms early and continuously30

- Harry Mayer (Reed). One of the finest exhibition dahlias to date. Color a beautiful silvery pink on face of petals with deeper rose pink on reverse, petals regularly placed. Highly recommended 2.50
- Harry Sheldon, Jr. (Murphy). The cleanest, classiest, largest and handsomest pink and white flower, regardless of class ever put on the market. Will grow 12 inches across, 5 to 6 inches deep. Petals are 2 inches wide very long, and the flower opens very fast, long before the black gives away, which means the greatest of all exhibition flowers 1.00

- Howitzer (Bessie Boston). The largest fancy decorative dahlia. Golden yellow splashed and penciled red. Truly a giant and one of the showiest flowers in the garden. The plants are vigorous growers and give an abundance of bloom. One of the best for exhibition 1.50
- Insulinde (Kriest). A fine, large flower on a good, stiff stem. Petals are curled and twisted, making a good flower for decoration. One of the new Holland creations. Color is a very deep gold with bronze suffusion. .75
- Islam Patrol (Davies). Very dark, velvety scarlet, tipped and flushed with gold. One of the outstanding, California dahlias at all the eastern exhibitions. Wonderful long stem, especially fine keeper 1.00

- Jersey's Beacon (Waite). A decided novelty of Chinese scarlet with a paler reverse, giving a two-toned effect. An exhibition flower of vigorous

- Joy (Bessie Boston). Clear silvery lavender throughout, "Shudow's Lavender" without any white shading and with the same excellent qualities as the older dahlia. One of the best new dahlias. Prize winner 5.00

- Kemp's Violet Wonder (Kemp). Impressive blooms of rich violet, with an underlying tone of royal purple. A true decorative of huge and massive proportions, borne on strong stems well above the tall plant. This remarkable dahlia has been Certified, and was a winner in the last show of the American Dahlia Society in New York 7.50

- King of Autumn (Hornsveld). The pride of the originator, Mr. H. Hornsveld, of Baarn, Holland. Flowers finely formed of big, loose petals and held on long, strong stems. Color buff yellow suffused with terra cotta and amber. Blooms from early to late in the season, and is very free .50

- Lake Erie (Stillman). This is without doubt one of the largest lavender, decorative dahlias in existence. The color is a clear deep lavender, while the form is quite flat with heavy, long, flat florets. A very unusual and beautiful dahlia both in color and shape, with flowers from 8 to 10 inches in diameter, on plants of medium height 1.00

- Margaret Masson (Fisher & Masson). This dahlia immediately attracts the attention of all who see it, by its beautiful silvery rose pink color, great depth and size. It is a wonderful exhibition flower, on account of its great size, and a profuse bloomer. Plant medium tall grower.... 1.00
- **Marmion** (Mastick). This is one of the very largest decorative, and as an exhibition dahlia is has few equals. The flowers are massive and have a great depth. It is a pure golden yellow with a bronze suffusion on the

- reverse of the petals. The form enhances the beauty of the flowers as the florets are long and wavy, and are produced very freely on long, cane-like stems. The foliage is thick in texture, tending to make it resistant to the attacks of the insects 2.00

- M. F. Heaphy (Murphy). A 1925 introduction which was very much admired. Color, maroon or royal purple. Fine growing plant, good stems and free bloomer. A giant massive bloom, fine for exhibition 1.50
- Miss Longview (Mastick). A magnificent dahlia of immense size, a great improvement over Marmion. The huge blooms are perfectly formed, of a most attractive shade of gold, shading to amber, and held absolutely erect on fine stems. Miss Longview will undoubtedly be a very popular variety, as it has every good point, and grows easily. Took the First Prize at Seattle for the best dahlia of Oregon origin, and as the largest dahlia in the show. Fully as large as Marmion and more beautiful 10.00
- Mons Le Normand (Charmet). A sensational giant of French origin. Flower is a large, shaggy monster with full massive centre, borne on long, stiff stems. Color yellow with points of petals tipped white, sometimes vivid scarlet. Sometimes the bloom is yellow striped and spotted scarlet .50

- Mrs. John Scheepers (Marean). The flowers are giants among giants, produced on strong stems stiff as a cane. On opening they are of a clear

- Our Country (Stillman). The ground color of this wonderful decorative dahlia is a very deep purple and the florets are heavily tipped with white. It is a mammoth flower, very deep with a never failing centre. The colors run very uniform, and it has never been known to produce solid purple or white flowers, as is so often the case with variegated dahlias. Plant has a very fine vigorous habit of growth 1.00

- Radio (Sampson). This variety attracts a great deal of attention in the shows. The color blood red edged and tipped with yellow, a color combination that attracts immediate attention. The plant is a strong grower and the immense blooms are held erect on stout rigid stems 1.50
- Red Emperor (Carlee). This extraordinary improvement in many respects surpasses by far the existing varieties in this colour. It is a sturdy growing variety, giving the best results in a well manured bottom. The flowers have a diameter of about 10 inches, colour intensive scarlet red and borne on extra long strong stems. F. C. C. Haarlem 1927.... 2.50

- Rodman Wanamaker (Peacock). One of our strongest growing varieties, producing large flowers on long stems. Buds are a pale yellow, but as the flower expands, develops into a bronzy salmon pink. This variety has a real peony centre which does not detract from its beauty ... 1.50

- Rosa Nell (Broomall). A magnificent dahlia of immense size, and clear carmine rose in color. Petals broad and very numerous, giving a full, heavy flower of the finest form, on excellent long stem. The plant has an ideal habit and is free flowering. A novelty of the greatest merit .75

- Sanhican's Darky (Fisher & Masson). Decorative. Color is rich Bordeaux crimson, almost black towards the centre, the whole covered with a "chocolaty" sheen or bloom, margins of petals distinctly marked amaranth purple. The perfect formation of the flower, its odd color, and grand wiry stem, make it a first rate exhibition variety 1.25
- Sanhican's Gem (Fisher & Masson). A grand specimen of a giant decorative. Color is a delightful shade of old rose, thickly suffused with amber

- Sanhican's Magnate (Fisher & Masson). As the name indicates, one of the big fellows of the Dahlia Kingdom. Exhibition decorative of a pale amaranth pink; face of petal tinged with a deeper shade; reverse of petals a solid claret color, heavily veined. The large flowers are held erect on stiff stems, free bloomer, medium height plants, dark green foliage. Awarded Certificate of Merit by Dahlia Society of N. J., 1925, with a score of 85 1.50

- Seal's Californian (Seal). Bright yellow suffused with rosy pink. A large clear colored flower of wax-like appearance. Especially charming at mid-season when the pink shading is most pronounced. The height of the plant is medium and the stems are strong and upright 7.50
- Shudow's Lavender (Bessie Boston). One of the sensational new dahlias which is a decided acquisition. The plants are very robust and tall with delicate lace-like foliage. The stems are long, straight and stiff, supporting the gigantic flower well above the foliage. The flower is a fine, massive, rather flat decorative with the massive petals curled and twist-

- Susan G. Tevis (Bessie Boston). This is a variety that produces an abundance of flowers throughout the season. It is among the first to bloom and holds its size to the end of the season. The color is best described as a deep shade of lilac with a bluish sheen; a very large, graceful bloom of fine depth; a vigorous grower with fine, healthy foliage 1.00

- The World (Dahliadel). This wonderful new dahlia was selected at the A. D. S. Show in New York by Mr. J. D. Sullivan of the New York

- Valley Forge (Greinberg). This large, greatly admired dahlia is held on very stout and erect stems. Color, light purple lightly suffused white .75

- Watchung Wonder (Smith). This spectacular dahlia created a sensation in the New York and Newark dahlia shows. Royal red, with a touch of gold at centre of flower, with now and then a tiny petaloid of gold to enhance its beauty. One of the largest dahlias ever grown 7.50

- William H. Hogan (Success). Color garnet red with white tips extending down to centre of flower. Large flower, fine stems, medium to tall habit of growth. Said by originator never to sport 5.00
- Winfield Slocombe (Slocombe). The most beautiful orange colored dahlia to date. The centre a beautiful golden shading to burnt orange, giving the entire flower a unique and handsome color. Perfect in form, color, stem and foliage. Produces an abundance of blooms early and late 1.00

- Yellow Beauty (Waite). The originator calls this the Yellow Jersey's Beauty, and not without reason, for it has all the earmarks of its allustrious parent so far as growing habits and carriage of bloom are concerned. The color is a clean, bright, true yellow. Won in "Best Vase of 25 Blooms" at Trenton. This flower may fulfill the long-felt florists' demand for a yellow that can be used as a commercial cut flower. 10.00

Peony-Flowered Dahlias

THIS class had its origin in Holland and was named on account of its resemblance to the Japanese Peony. Flowers are large, on long stems, and have conspicuous open centres around which the large, broad gracefully curled and twisted petals are rather loosely and irregularly arranged. They are devoid of stiffness and formality, and are sometimes referred to as the "Art Dahlias."



A Typical Peony

Attraction (Hornsveld). Large, elegant flowers of a clear lilacrose color, produced on long, strong stems; a vigorous grower and an exhibition flower and garden dahlia of rare merit. A striking attraction at all shows

Bluebird (Bessie Boston). Quite an exceptional color of the deepest tone of mauve or lilac, which in certain lights has a bluish sheen. A simply huge blossom held on stems long and as stiff as bamboo. The bushes are always laden with blooms, one of the most striking dahlias in the garden. .50

Blossom (Bessie Boston). One of the finest new peony dahlias. The flowers are immense, of perfect peony form, with well curled centre petals, borne aloft on long, stiff stems, and lasting as a cut flower. Color is white with a faint pink at the base of the petals, suggesting the dainty coloring seen in fruit blossoms.

Wonderful for exhibition

Chanson (Bessie Boston). The color of this large, heavy peony is an entirely new one—deepest lilac with a bluish sheen. Petals are numerous and it has a strong, erect stem, excellent for exhibiting and cutting 1.00

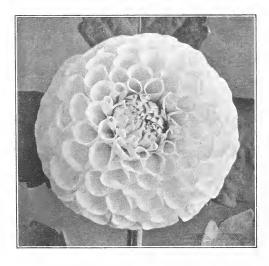
- Geisha (Hornsveld). Of strong growth with the rich-colored flowers standing well above the foliage. Gorgeous combination of scarlet and gold, the centre being yellow, which becomes suffused with and deepens to scarlet at the centre of the peculiarly twisted and curled petals, shading off lighter at the edges. The showiest and most attractive of his type yet introduced. Our stock of this variety is unusually fine50
- John Meusdorffer (Meusdorffer). A stunning flower. The immense brilliant scarlet blossom is held perfectly erect on an exceptionally strong stem. A basket of these vivid flowers at an exhibition will be the centre of attraction 5.00
- Madame J. Coissard (Charmet). A very beautiful shade of deep carmine crimson or French purple passing to white at the centre, and more or less overlaid with white. Flowers very large; a very striking variety... .50

- Oregon Russet (White). Of huge size and beautiful, informal shape with curling petaloids around centre. Early and profuse bloomer with splendid stems, lasting exceptionally well as a cut flower. A distinct and very attractive color hard to describe. The centre of flower is a rich golden ochre, quickly blending to bronzy salmon and heavily shaded sunset red on outer half of petals. Medium height. A wonderful "wonder".. 1.00

- Queen Esther (Stillman). One of the most beautiful massive flowers of enormous size, of the true peony type with curling centre petals, borne on long, strong stems. Color intense, dazzling deep red (DuBarry). .50
- Rosalie Styles (Peacock). The largest and best pink of this class. Beautiful form, immense size, stiff stems, strong, vigorous, sturdy plant, a free and continuous bloomer, while last but not least, a wonderful live lustrous color—bright tyrian pink, tipped lighter; reflex pink. The plant

Double Show Dahlias

THIS class is a branch of the ball type. The flowers are round, symmetrical and perfectly formed, the petals being regular, cupped or quilled and usually full to the centre. They are early, free and continuous bloomers; the dahlias of our grandmother's gardens.



A Typical Show Dahlia

Clara Seaton (Doolittle). A giant flower of a beautiful rich golden bronze, with massive quilled petals. The plant is a vigorous grower with long, stiff stems, averaging two feet, which makes it a wonderful cut flower as well as for garden decoration50

Dreer's White (Dreer).
This is the finest snow white s how dahlia to date. The flowers are large, pure white, without shade or blemish, finely

Frank Smith. This is one of the worthy old varieties which adds interest to any collection. Flowers are of fine form, perfect, and held on good

- Glory of Argonne (Maytrott). The most beautiful pink and white show dahlia grown. Color, delicate violet rose passing to white at the centre, perfect, even form on erect stem. Fine for cut flower or exhibition. .50
- Gold Medal (Keynes). Brightest canary yellow striped, penciled and overlaid with vermillion; flowers massive and full, beautifully quilled. A good free bloomer and a brilliant gem; fine for the garden or exhibition. .50

- Vivian (Comstock). One of the most admired of the new show dahlias. The fine, large regular flowers are white edged with rose pink—a wonderful blend of colors. Looks most refreshing; takes the eve of everyone. .25

Choice Collarette Dahlias

THIS type originated in the Jardin de la Tete d'Or, Lyons, France. The flowers are medium to large in size with open centres and one or more rows of petals and surrounding the centre a ring of small modified petals gives the collarette. The collarette is usually of a different color from that of the petals, and the contrasts are quite pleasing.

- Maurice Rivoire (Rivoire). An attractive flower with petals of ox-blood red, with deeper stripe down the centre. Pure white fringed collar.... .25



Maurice Rivoire

San Mateo Star (Bessie Boston). An extraordinary flower and the biggest collarette ever produced. The color is a clear cerise, the petals edged white, and the collar white. The formation is a distinct star. Like all blossoms of this type, is a cheerful bloomer with good stems.

Souv. Bel Accueil (Rivoire). This orange-red with yellow collar should be seen to be appreciated.

Century and Single Dahlias

THE CENTURY is an improvement on the old-fashioned single dahlia, the centre is always visible and surrounded by one or two rows of large petals, which are more or less symmetrically arranged.

Eckford Century. Very large flowers produced in abundance on long stiff stems. Color is white spotted and penciled with pink and crimson. .20

General Favorite (Somerhousen). A very beautiful single dahlia with broad, rounded full petals. The color is white with each edge of the petals bordered with a bright orange. Bushy plant and flowers freely. A most unusually fine cut flower from which it takes its name 50

Double Pompom Dahlias

THIS class is a miniature form of the show dahlias, having the same round, ball-like form, but much smaller in size, ranging from an inch and a half to two inches in diameter. The plants are dwarf (twelve to eighteen inches in height), of branching habit and produce a profusion of flowers that is truly astonishing, filling well the demand for cut flowers.

Aimee (Bessie Boston). A wee flower of bronze; coloring is entirely new and charming. Blooms freely on exceedingly long stems50

Amber Queen. Rich, clear amber, shaded apricot, extra free, best for florists use
Anita (Bernhard). Old rose
Anna Christina (Bolsa). A golden yellow, shading deeper at the centre Fine shaped flower with a good stem and borne in profusion 1.00
Anna von Schwerin. The color is a most delicate shade of light pink, without a trace of lavender, and blends off to a nearly white centre; a shade which we have not had in pompoms. The flowers are small, of absolutely perfect formation and stay so until the end of the season
Annie Doncaster (West). Yellow base suffused with pearly pink; small and neat flower
Arthur (Bessie Boston). Brilliant scarlet, and the very best in this coloring Flower is small, regularly formed. Stem is particularly long. Floriferous
Atom (Hodgens-Snell). New 1926. The tiniest in this class. Orange color perfect form
Baby. White edged with lavender
Baby Evelyn (Lee). Soft salmon rose
Baby Marie Osborne. A deep bright yellow which will take a place at the head of the list. Flowers medium size, perfect form with long stems .50
Bantam (Hennig-Bessie Boston). New 1926. Very dainty. Small and well formed. Very long stems. Floriferous. Novel color or brownish red Desirable in every way
Bebe (McWhirter). Combination of pink and mauve on a white ground. Strong growing and extra free flowering. Small and well formed75
Belle of Springfield. The smallest dahlia known; a bright red of the neatest form
Betty Moore (Seal). Golden yellow base suffused delicate red, giving a
rosy buff tone
Billee (Bessie Boston). New. Small scarlet bloom of the best form for exhibiting
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Darkest of All (West). Dark velvety maroon, almost black
Dee Dee (Estes). A decided acquisition in this new lilac \dots .50
Dimples (Seal). Golden apricot color with dark brown center 1.00
Dixie (Seal). A small dark red blossom of perfect formation for exhibiting, and excellent for cutting, having long stiff stems 1.00
Donald Gordon. New; burnt orange, small and compact
Donovan (West). White and purple
Doris (Keynes). Distinct shade of cream of finest form. Splendid habit and profuse bloomer
Douglas Tucker (Keynes). Golden yellow with crimson centre and edges. Very perfect form and abundant bloomer
Edgar (Bolsa). Deep cream almost lemon in color, good stems50
Edith (Bessie Boston). A tiny round flower of yellow, heavily tipped brownish red. Very floriferous
Eileen (Keynes). A rare pompom. White, tipped with lilac. Perfect formation. Fine for cutting or for the garden. Unusually fine75
Eleganta. Beautiful bright rose pink. Very free
Ernest Harper. Coral red
Fashion. Clear, bright orange, showy
Flame. Bright orange-scarlet; long stems
Ganymede (Turner). Buff tinted with pink
George Ireland (West). A very perfect little flower of dainty mauve color, borne very freely on long stems
Gertrude (Salbach). Crimson red
Girlie (West). A beautiful clear lilac pink
Glow (Cheal). Rich coral color
Golden Queen (Alexander). The best yellow pompom to date. Finely quilled and perfect flower
Goldie (Estes-Seal). Pure gold in color. A tiny flower of perfect exhibition type, with long, stiff stems making it unexcelled for cutting50
Goldilocks (Seal). A beautiful blossom of pure gold. Of perfect formation for exhibiting, with fine, long, stiff stems for cutting 1.00
Grus am Wien. Crushed strawberry; a distinct color and form25
Guiding Star or White Aster. Pure white, notched petals
Hazel. Small, finely formed, of buff deepening to brown
Hazel Dell (Hodgens). A charming pink which will be found excellent for cutting. Good form
Helen Anita (Bolsa). Small lavender, white center, very attractive, long stems
Helen Cottrell (Seal). New. A perfect flower of a light or baby pink50
Henrietta. Cream base, tipped crimson
Janet. Gold, shading to bronze
Jazz. Raspberry red, long stiff stems
Joan (Bessie Boston). A beautifully formed small blossom of clear yellow suffused with pinkish red. Extra fine
Joe Fette (Bessie Boston). The best white for all purposes

red. Very small and fine for the buttonhole
Johnny Peppin (Bolsa). Small dark crimson, splendid formation 1.50
Jonkheer von Citters. Yellow tipped orange
Kathleen (McWhirter). New coloring in this type. American Beauty. Charming flower with a very long stem. Fine
Kim (Bessie Boston). An orange which will hold its centre where it is warm
Klein Dormitea. Yellowish buff, suffused with orange toward the centre; profuse bloomer, great for cut flowers
Lassie. Yellow, old rose shadings
Leda Beeler (Hodgens). New. Tiny, compact lavender with very long stems. Prolific bloomer throughout the entire season
Leola. Soft pink, lovely color
Libbie Rohr (Bolsa). Cerise purple; long stems. Very excellent 1.50
Lilias (Seal). One of the loveliest pompoms. Cream ground heavily suffused with pink with a lilac sheen. Very beautiful
Little Beeswing. Golden yellow heavily tipped red, small
Little David (Twichett). The deepest shade of orange. Small, perfectly shaped blossom. Very free blooming. One of the best
Little Donald. Garnet; one of the best
Little Irene. A clear canary yellow on a perfect stem
Little Jean. Cream, heavily tipped with tan. A fine bicolored flower of small size and good stems
Little Lloyd. A deep burnt orange to amber shade on a perfect stem50
Lloyd Hickman (Hodgens). A distinct new color of old rose. An exceptional cut flower because of its length of leafless stem50
Lolita. Yellow, brown center
Macbeth (Keynes). The daintiest and loveliest of all pompoms. White tipped pink. Perfect formation. Beautiful for garden and cutting50
Madeline. Pale yellow, edged purple
Margy (Bolsa). A flaming red of fine form on long stiff stems. The brightest color in dahlias—no other like it
Marietta. Deep rosy crimson, fine for cutting
Mary Munns (Bolsa). A beautiful fuchsia color with an orchid sheen. A splendid flower of fine form and profuse in blooming 1.00
Meg (Bessie Boston). New 1928. A bright buttercup yellow. Small and well formed. Blooms profusely
Midget (West). Small salmon pink
Mike (Bessie Boston). A charming color of burnt orange, small and good form
Mim (Bessie Boston). New 1929. A small compact flower of royal purple. Coloring is new
Montague Wooten (Turner). White, edged and shaded lake
Mrs. J. J. Klyn (Westerbeek & Klyn). A most beautiful bright, deep orange. Finest form and a good companion to Belle of Springfield. Very attractive
Neatness (West). A creamy tan

Nelly Fraser (West). Blush ground, tipped rose. None better for perfection and number of blooms. Small in size; fine stems
Nemesis. Red with white edges. Very good for cutting
Nerissa (Turner). A splendid shade of lovely pink that appeals to every one. Shows up most pleasing under artificial light. Perfect form; profuse bloomer and always in great demand
Nora Reynolds (Seale). Indian red. Small and neat
Oleta. Soft oriental red with long stiff stems
Olga (Sheffield). Scarlet red, small round compact bloom, very free bloomer
Ora (Sheffield). White, yellow base with lavender tip, one of the very best
Patsy (McWhirter). 1926 introduction. Golden bronze tipped cherry. Small well formed blossoms. Good stems and a free bloomer
Pee Wee (Bessie Boston). Soft yellow with a center shading to brown. 50 Peggy Ann (Bolsa). Yellow, edged and shaded brownish red, prolific bloomer
Phoebe (Keynes). Orange tipped scarlet; very attractive
Pigmy (Bessie Boston). New 1928. Cream, overlaid with pink. One of the tiniest flowers. Good form
Pride (Alexander). A very deep crimson scarlet flower which is a model of perfection
Reno (Bessie Boston). Beautiful old rose, shading to old gold. Attractive new coloring in pompoms; good
Rival. Dark red. A very fine flower in color resembling the Pride of California decorative. This is one of our best sellers and we never have enough stock of it to fill orders
Rosea (Keynes). Of ideal size and build. The color is a pretty shade of bluish lilac
Rosa Wilmouth. A fine rose pink, very free
Rosebud or Blush Gem (Cheal). White ground, deeply edged cerise pink. Robust grower and free bloomer and a great favorite with all visitors .50
Rothaut. Deep carmine scarlet. Fine cutting variety
Sammy. Popular shade of gold. Good for cutting
Skeezix. Soft lavender. A new California variety of much merit. Fine shape and size with good stems
Snowbird. A fine white, grand stem
Snowclad. A fine pearl white, best white pompom
Sunbeam. Crimson scarlet. Very bright
Sunset (Keynes). Orange. Very popular
Suzanne (Bolsa). Lavender pointed petals; good stems 1.50
The Flapper. Novelty crimson maroon cream pink center 1.00
Thorbe. Yellow ground, shading lavender
Tiny Tim (Eldred-Bessie Boston). Smallest and most perfect pink, varying to white. Scarce
Tom (Bessie Boston). Small and compact flower of bright yellow, tipped sunset red. Produces masses of blooms
Tommy Keith (West). Red. tipped with white. Very attractive50

Tom ThumbVery small flowers of garnet red
Trebe. White pale lavender tips, small, compact
Viridiflora. The green dahlia. The most unique novelty of dahlia culture. The flower is a rich verdant green, same shade as the foliage
Vivid (Turner). One of the brightest scarlets. Very fine for cut flowers .25
Wee Gracie (West). A beautiful combination of lavender and white25
Yellow Gem (McWhirter). Considered the best yellow pompom yet introduced. A strong, vigorous grower and a remarkably free-bloomer. Good for both exhibition and cutting

Surprise Collections

They consist of 12 named varieties of our selection and are sold at \$3.00, \$5.00 and \$10.00 each. In every instance each will consist of 12 tubers which total in value in the catalogue not less than twice the sum paid.

Mixed, Unnamed Dahlias, tubers which have become detached from their names, \$1.50 per dozen. These contain many fine varieties and will give big value for the money.

How to Raise Dahlias Successfully

How to Keep Dahlias Until Planting Time. When you receive your dahlia tubers, do not put them in some out-of-the-way place to dry out and die. Unpack them and lay the tubers flat on their sides in a box of damp earth, taking care to see that the sprout or eye is turned up. Do not use wet or sticky soil. Use soil that is damp enough to crumble nicely. Cover the tubers with three or four inches of this soil and set them in a cool place until planting time.

Planting Time. This varies somewhat with the locality, as well as with the time you wish the dahlias to bloom. In the Middle Atlantic section of this country planting can be done from May 1st to June 15th for the average crop of flowers. Further south planting can be done in February and March. In the New England States, where the season may be short, planting can be made after the danger of frost is past. Nothing is gained by planting too early. It is best to wait until the ground becomes thoroughly warmed, and in good working condition. If planted too early, when the ground is cold and damp, the tubers may rot. Dahlias bloom in from eight to ten weeks after planting. This fact is often of value in deciding when to plant and when the flowers are desired. Some of the finest exhibition blooms are obtained from planting as late as the 1st of July. We usually begin about June 25 and finish about August 1.

Location for Planting. An open sunny place is the best location for the great majority of dahlias. Except in a few instances they do not succeed in heavily shaded spots. Some of the more delicate varieties do better in partial shade, especially during the hotter portion of the day. Some of the finest exhibition flowers can be produced only in partial shade, which protects their delicate coloring from the fading action of the sun. If too much shade, the plants run to long stocks and foliage with few or no flowers. In the sun they form stocky, well-developed plants.

They are the better for some protection from sweeping winds which are likely to come after they have made their growth. Planted along a wall fence or arbor, and among shrubbery, they are not so apt to become broken by the wind and storm and the plants are not likely to become lopsided and unshapely.

The Soil and Its Preparation. Dahlias do well on a great variety of soils. A light well-drained sandy loam is the best suited to their needs, but they will grow and do well in clay loam, sand and even in ashes. The large

tubers require a great deal of moisture, but wet soil is fatal to them, so that good drainage becomes essential. If the soil is heavy, it may be made suitable by the addition of sand, leaf-mold or ashes (well spaded in and incorporated so as to break up the clay and make it porous. A certain amount of vegetable matter derived either from well-rotted manure or leaf-mold is helpful in furnishing humus which aids in retaining soil moisture in dry weather.

The soil should not be prepared until it is in good working condition, that is when it is mellow and crumbles when dug and does not cling to the spade or fork. Never plant in wet, pasty soil, such as clings to the fork or spade. The soil should be finely pulverized and is them in the proper condition for receiving the tubers. The soil should be dug to a depth of twelve or fifteen inches.

While many growers prefer to add manure as a fertilizer when planting, it is not essential; it may even prove detrimental in producing too rank growth of the plants and consequently paucity of flowers. The proper time to fertilize is after the growth has been attained and the flower buds begin to appear. Fresh manure in contact with the tubers when planted may cause them to rot and prove fatal, therefore avoid its use.

Planting the Tubers. The tubers should be planted from five to six inches below the surface of the soil. This puts them down in the moist layer of the soil and prevents them from drying out and becoming stunted during the hot, dry weather of midsummer. Dahlias are great lovers of moisture, and this can only be constantly maintained at this depth.

Lay the tuber flat on its side, that is, with the long axis horizonal. Never stand a tuber upright or on end, as the new roots are given out from the junction of the sprout with the tuber, and if these are not well covered and in a constantly moist situation, they will fail to develop the large roots which eventually become tubers, or as some people prefer to call them, potatoes. Dahlia tubers, while they are not potatoes, require much the same conditions for development as do potatoes.

In planting, see that the eye or sprout is turned upwards, so that it can grow without hindrance. The eye can be found on the crown end of the tuber. The crown end is the portion where the tuber joined the stalk of the old plant from which it was taken. When you have laid the tuber on its side, sprout up, and five or six inches deep in the ground, cover with finely pulverized soil, filling the hole up even with the surface, pressing carefully so as not to break the sprout. If conditions are favorable the sprout will grow rapidly and appear above ground in from ten days to two weeks.

In wet seasons when dahlias stop growing and the leaves turn yellow it is due to the rotting of the feed roots, and stopping of the sap for growth. It is recommended to dig up the tuber, cut the sprout back to a short distance from the base, leaving several eyes, rub the skin of the tuber with tow bag to loosen up its hide-bound condition, dry it out in the air for a few hours and then replant in new soil and preferably a better location.

Cultivation. As soon as the sprouts have grown two or three inches above the ground it is time to cultivate. Hoe the surface of the ground and keep free from weeds. This should be done often and the surface should never be allowed to form a crust. Never cultivate when the ground is wet. The day following a rain is usually the best time. Cultivate deep (two o three inches), and continue until the plants begin to bloom; then stop, as cultivation will now do harm. Breaking the surface prevents the two rapid evaporation of moisture from the soil and allows the plants to take it up.

Supporting the Plants. When the plant has attained the height of twelve to fifteen inches, a stake five feet long and tapering to a point at the lower end should be securely driven into the ground at a distance of three or four inches from the plant, and the plant tied to it. From time to time as growth continues, the upper portion of the stem and branches should be

secured. In this way the plants will remain upright and the large, heavy branches prevented from breaking off from their own weight by the winds. Use strips of muslin. An old sheet torn into strips of an inch in width makes a most satisfactory tying material. Soft hemp twine will answer, but small twine and string usually cut and injure the stalks.

Proper Time to Use Fertilizer. When the buds begin to form, then begin fertilization. The plant has now made the major portion of its growth and fertilizer will do no harm. If fertilized early the plants are apt to become rank, all stems and foliage, and too tall. Old, well-rotted cow manure worked into the soil is best. Usually it is not obtainable, and in its stead pulverized sheep manure may be used. Pure bone meal and acid phosphate, equal quantities of each make a good mixture, and a good handful scattered around the plant for distance of a foot should be worked into the soil. In addition, one or two teaspoonfuls of nitrate of soda will increase the size of the flowers if applied in the same manner when the buds begin to develop. The latter is a strong salt and should be used sparingly and not applied oftener than once in two weeks. Weak liquid manure may be given once a week.

Disbudding. In order to obtain flowers of good quality as well as large exhibition blooms, allow the terminal bud only to remain on each shoot; remove the others down to the second pair of leaves. After the first flower has bloomed (terminal bud), the sprouts in the axils of the second pair of leaves will push ahead and produce buds. Of these all but the terminal bud should be removed. On the above principle, disbudding should be practiced, as it gives larger and more perfect flowers. For the finest large exhibition blooms, disbudding should be done along the entire length of branch or stem; fewer flowers will be the result, but their quality will more than compensate for the loss in numbers.

Watering. As a general rule, dahlias should not be watered unless the ground is very dry or during long periods of drought. If you water them, give plenty so that it goes deep. Frequent sprinkling of the surface does more harm than good, for it brings the roots near the surface, where they are apt to suffer from their inability to get a constant supply of moisture, such as they get when they are deeper down in the soil.

Digging for Winter. As soon as the frost has cut the tops of the dahlias, the sap recedes into the roots. Two or three days after a heavy, killing frost is the best time to dig the roots. Cut the stalks back to within two or three inches from the crown. In digging use a spade, fork or long-handled shovel, and dig wide of the plant, say fifteen to eighteen inches, to avoid cutting off the tubers. Some varieties have very long necks and tubers, while others have short ones. By digging wide you take no risks. Do not pull the clumps out of the ground, but dig deep and lift the soil and the tubers as you go around the plant. This enables you to get the clumps out without breaking the necks. A tuber with a broken neck is usually no good. The young dahlia plant grows from a sprout on the crown, which is that part of the lower end of the old plant where the tubers join the stem. In order that a tuber may grow it must have direct connection with the sprout on the crown by means of an unbroken neck. This explains the failure of dahlias to grow in many instances. A clear, sunny day is ideal for digging dahlias, and when you have lifted the clumps, allow them to stand in the sun for two or three hours, after which any excess soil may be removed and they are ready for their permanent storing place.

Storing. The best place to store dahlias is a good, cool cellar, such as will keep potatoes well, and where the temperature remains fairly constant at from forty to forty-five degrees, and the air is neither too damp nor too dry. Stored dahlias are so apt to suffer from the latter condition. Cellars with heaters and cement floors are usually too dry and the roots shrivel up. To a certain extent this may be prevented by lining barrels or boxes with a good, heavy thickness of paper and thus excluding the drying air.

In all cases pack the clumps one on top of the other, each clump upside down for draining. In the stem of the dahlia is a strong, rank, acrid juice, which if allowed to settle back into the crown may cause the whole clump to rot. Turning upside down allows this juice to drain out, and is favorable to the preservation of the crown. In case you have labeled your varieties, always tie the label around the neck of one of the tubers to make sure that it will not come off and get mixed with others. If the label is tied around the stem, above the crown, as the stem dries and shrivels it becomes loose and is apt to fall off when the clump is turned upside down.

In case the temperature and moisture conditions have been all right your roots will need no further attention until spring, when planting time arrives.

It is well, however, to look at the roots every three or four weeks, especially if the cellar is dry, and an occasional sprinkling with water and covering with several thickness of old carpet or bags will prevent them becoming dead dry, and carry them through until spring.

When dahlias that have been dug for winter become covered with a green mould shortly after storing, it is because they have been frosted or frozen. There is no hope of saving such roots.

Division of Clumps. About a week before planting time, look over your clumps and divide them to single tubers, having at least one good, visible sprout on the attached portion of the crown. Never plant a whole dahlia clump, the results will be little short of failure. Each tuber with its neck and piece of crown containing at least one eye will give the best and strongest plant that it is possible to get from a dahlia. The size of a tuber has very little to do with the results; small tubers are as good as large ones, and sometimes much better; some of the finest varieties have poor roots at best and their tubers usually come through the winter in a more or less shriveled condition in spite of our efforts.

Systems of Planting. It is well to remember that dahlias are large plants, requiring plenty of space for their best development. At least three feet or more apart, where the space is available, is ideal. Where space is limited they can be crowded down to two and a half to two feet apart, but the closer they are planted the smaller will be their growth. Where they are planted singly and irregularly, three feet is sufficient, in a garden row or along a fence where the row is single they may be crowded to two feet apart and still do well. Such plants should not have the center shoot pinched, but should be allowed to grow on to a single stem, which will need staking.

For those who wish to plant dahlias in a plot or field (and this is the right way to do it if space permits) we recommend planting in rows four or five feet apart and the plants two to four feet apart in the rows. This can be done quite easily by running furrows six inches deep with a hand cultivator plow and dropping the tubers, sprout up, the proper distance apart along the rows; then cover up carefully to protect the sprouts and when the latter have come up so that two sets of leaves have developed, then pinch out the sprout above the second set of leaves. This gives a bush of four branches, which will form a short self-supporting, stocky plant. Pinching delays flowering about two weeks, a fact worth remembering, especially for those who have a short season. The plants should be cultivated between the rows and treated otherwise as for dahlias in general.

Commercial growers usually prepare the ground as in the preceding and plant the tubers ten to fifteen inches apart. The plants are not pinched, and they support each other by their massed condition in the rows.

Enemies of the Dahlia. The dahlia is, generally speaking, rather free from enemies, but at times an occasional plant is attacked in one of several ways. We have found the cut-worm and the stalk-borer to give us most trouble.

The cut-worm often attacks the young shoot just as it emerges from the ground. Usually if the sprout is healthy and vigorous, secondary shoots come up a little later, or other sprouts from the crown may start. Later on when the flower buds are opening the worm may attack the flowers and destroy them. When they do, they do it quickly and leave little behind. At that time the best method of attack is to use a flashlight after dark and examine each plant carefully and the worm is usually easy to find. This method offers the surest possibilties for destroying them. At times, attacks on the plants from cut-worms may be prevented by making a poisoned bran-mash and sprinkling or making a ring of it around the plant.

In wet seasons the slugs are troublesome in ascending the stems and rapidly devouring the foliage and flowers and causing great havoc, usually choosing the finest specimens, as though from malice aforethought. Handpicking and close watching will usually give the best results. A dry ring of powdered lime around the plant will suffice to keep them away as long as the lime remains a dry powder.

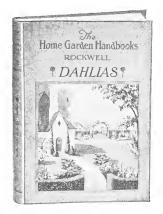
The stalk-borer is the larva of an insect which deposits its eggs in the fall at the base of the stems of old weeds and grasses. In May the larvae hatch and crawl to nearby thick-stemmed plants, such as the tomato, corn, dahlia and others, and by boring a hole, enter them, and as the larva develops it feeds on the inside soft tissue of the stem. In time, so much of the supporting structure is removed as to retard the growth and the top weakens and falls over. This condition is readily recognized by the stunted appearance of the plant, which up to that time has been growing rapidly, as the plants are apt to do in the early stage of their growth. By closely examining the stem of the plant in such cases there will be found a hole in the stem, through which the excrementa is passed, and sometimes another hole several inches above it. A drop of carbon bisulphide or, better still, of turpentine, introduced through a slit made in the upper portion of the plant will cause the larva to leave the stalk and never come back. Such treatment is usually satisfactory if the condition is discovered in the very early stage, but is not satisfactory when much damage has already been done. In the latter case it will be found most satisfactory to cut the top of the plant off in the sound tissue below the point of injury, looking to laterals to push out from the axils of the leaves. Always kill the larva when possible.

Should the aphis attack the plants, the various nicotine preparations may be used with prompt results. In case caterpillars or other leaf chewers attack the plants the arsenate of lead spray works well. For mildew, a solution of Bordeaux Mixture may be used.

If a dahlia from a new locality does not do well the first season do not be discouraged but try it again the next year. Many varieties need to be acclimated which can only be done in this way. Also it should be remembered that all variegated dahlias are freaks, and are likely to return to their solid colors sooner or later.

Raising Dahlias from Seed. This is quite interesting, as no one can be certain what a seed will produce. All the best new varieties have been raised in this way. Some growers may get one or two good new varieties out of several thousand seedling plants, while one or two good things may appear among a hundred or more; the uncertainty of the results lends a fascination to this method of raising dahlias.

The seeds should be planted in boxes of good, rich well-prepared soil in March, either in house or greenhouse. In from six to ten days the plants will appear. When these have made two sets of leaves, each plant should be pricked off singly into $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch pots. They do best in a cool house rather than a warm one, and should be shifted into larger size pots as they become crowded in their growth. After May 10th they can be planted out in their permanent positions, and treated in all respects like dahlias grown from tubers.



The foregoing directions are the essentials of dahlia growing for the amateur, but for the more experienced growers who desire many worthwhile suggestions on pruning, disbudding, insects and diseases, propagating, hybridizing and growing for exhibition, we highly recommend.

DAHLIAS

By F. F. Rockwell

this is one of "The Home Garden Handbooks", consisting of 80 pages with 65 illustrations; $5x7\frac{1}{2}$ inches—convenient for the pocket; cloth, \$1.10 postpaid.

We will include it as a premium when requested, with every retail order amounting to \$20.00 or over.

We recommend "The Flower Grower" to those who wish an up to date magazine on Floriculture, in which the dahlia finds a generous share of attention. Address The Flower Grower, Madison Cooper, Publisher, Calcium, New York.

All who are interested in dahlias should attend at least one dahlia show each season. This will give an opportunity to see the best in dahlias as they are introduced, and by making lists of the favorite varieties for reference they may be readily recognized in the catalogue each season when making out your order.

Our catalogues are issued in January of each year. If you fail to receive a copy, drop us a postal and one will be sent to you.

Should you not be interested in this catalogue, we will esteem it a favor if you will pass it on to one of your dahlia-loving friends whose thanks to you may be as great as will be ours.

Freedom From Insect Pests.

We have experienced very little trouble from insect pests, especially so with the Japanese Beetle. Our dahlias are inspected both during the growing season and when they are dormant, by the United States Department of Agriculture and that of the State of Pennsylvania co-operating, and every shipment which we make is inspected and certified to be free from insect or other pests before it is sent out.

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